Land prices chargeable from Cooperative Group Housing Societies

610. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of Cooperative Group Housing Societies in Delhi has in their convention held on June 30, 1990 demanded that Delhi Administration should reduce the land price for cooperative Group Housing Societies;

(b) whether it is a fact that the land prices which were fixed at Rs. 425 per square metre in 1987, were raised to Rs. 1375 per square metie and have lately been reduced by Delhi Administration to Rs.975 per square metre, which in effect meant a hike of more than 225%; and

(c) what has been Government's reaction to the latest demand of the Federation?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The rate of Rs. 975/- per square metre fixed by the DDA for allotment of land to Cooperative Group Housing Societies in South Delhi (Dwarka) is based on the estimated cost of acquisition and development and there is little scope for reduction.

Steps to bring down prices of essential commodities

611. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had taken any firm steps in May this year to bring down the prices of cement, tea, vegetable oils and soaps to pre-budget (1990) levels and to stabilise the same at that level;

(b) if so, what were its effect on their retail during the months of June and July this year indicating maximum and minimum levels registered in respect of each item in each month; and

(c) what further steps are being contemplated to bring down and stabiJise their prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL): (a) Government is keeping a continuous watch on the price situation of selected essential commodities. These efforts were further intensified in the months of April and May, 1990 when prices of some of the essential commodities exhibited signs of rising trend after the Union Budget for 1990-91. Meetings were held with the representatives of cement industry and as a result, the industry agreed to roll back the cement prices to the level obtaining in March, 1990. In case of tea, there is a Monitoring Committee on Tea Prices in the Ministry of Commerce whose meetings are held periodically to keep a watch on prices, and availability of tea. Exports of tea have been staggered to reduce the pressure on domestic markets and industry has been asked to ensure the supplies and availability of economy packs of tea through cooperatives and other outlets.

In case of edible oils, several steps have been taken to check increase in their prices which include:

(i) Blending of conventional oil (mustard, groundnut) with one non-conventional oil (like soyabean, cottonseed, safflower) has been permitted (w.e.f. 23rd April, 1990)

(ii) The Reserve Bank of India has increased the margin money needed by the oilseed trade w.e.f. 2.7.1990.

(iii) Stock limits of edible oils have been reduced by 50% in the case of processors and manufacturers of edible oils w.e.f. 2.7.90.

(iv) Use of expeller mustard oil in the manufacture of *Vanaspati* has been withdrawn from 6.7.90.

(v) The supplies of imported edible oils

through Public Distribution System have been stepped up from 35,200 tonnes in March, 1990 to 50,500 tonnes in May, 1990, 61,100 tonnes in June, 1990, 70,000 tonnes in July, 1990 which has been further increased to 85,000 tonnes for August, 1990. National Dairy Developmnent Board has also been authorised to undertake judicious market intervention measures with the imported oil and domestic oil procured by them.

(vi) Government is making arrangements for exports of surplus Milk Powder with National Dairy Development Board and to utilise the foreign exchange earned, for importing Palmolein.

In case of soap, Government is constantly reviewing the position to ensure that adequate quantities of soapery oils are made available.

(b) A statement showing the retail prices of cement, tea, *Vanaspati,* groundnut oil, mustard oil, laundry soap and toilet soap at the minimum amd maximum levels based on the information available are given in Annexure. *(See* below)

(c) Government will continue to make efforts to increase production of essential commodities, strengthening the Public Distribution System, strictly enforce the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act and other regulatory measures and augment domestic supplies through imports wherever necessary (e.g. edible oils) subject to over all constraint of foreign exchange resources. These steps are expected to exercise a sobering effect on behaviour of prices in coming months.

Statement

Retail prices of Essential Commodities

	Item	June, 1990		July, 1990	
		Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
1.	Cement (per bag of 50 kg.)	72.00	95.00	76.00	95.00
2.	Tea (per kg.)	14.00 (250 gms)	19.45 (250 gms)	37.90	75.00
3.	Vanaspati (Per kg.)	30.00	36.00	33.00	38.00
4.	Groundnut oil (per kg.)	29.00	35.00	28.60	40.00
5.	Mustard oil (per kg.)	23.00	33.00	26.50	34.00
6.	Laundry soap				
	(i) 555 (per kg.)	12.20	12.20	12.20	12.20
	(ii) Rin (250 gm.)	6.65	6.65	6.65	6.65
7.	Toilet soap				
	(i) Lifebuoy	4.05	4.05	4.05	4.05
	(ii) Hamam	4.10	4.10	4.10	4.10
	(iii) Liril	5.55	5.55	5.55	5.55

SOURCE: State Governments and Super Bazar , New Delhi.